

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 09056 291558Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 USSS-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 SSM-03
IO-13 EB-07 DHA-02 OMB-01 SCA-01 MCT-01 TRSE-00
COME-00 IGA-02 AID-05 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /111 W
-----291615Z 021981 /50 45

O P 291508Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2636
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 190
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
CIA WASHDC
COMSIXTHFLT
COMPHIBRON SIX
COM THREE FOUR MAU
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 9056

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE
SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION DECEMBER 28-29

REF: BEIRUT 9008 (DTG 271528Z DEC 76)
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 09056 291558Z

1. SUMMARY: PRESS REPORTS 1500 UAE SOLDIERS EN ROUTE TO
TYRE, BUT WE UNDERSTAND THEY ARE IN HILLS EAST OF BEIRUT.
SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON REMAINS TENSE, AND RIGHTIS
QIJPRESNCE. THE STATUS
OF COLLECTION OF HEAVY ARMS REMAINS UNCLEAR. FORTY-SEVEN

HOUSES ALLEGEDLY DYNAMITED IN HIGH MATN BY CHRISTIANS. INTRA-PALESTINIAN CLASHES FLARED UP AGAIN DEC 28. SOVIETS TO PROVIDE LEBANON WITH A FIELD HOSPITAL. AL-HUSS EXPECTED RETURN FROM TRIPS TO EGYPT AND LIBYA, FOR DEC 30 CABINET MEETING. JUNBLATT RUMORED WITHDRAWING FROM CHAIRMANSHIP OF CENTRAL POLITICAL COUNCIL OF NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND OBLIQUELY CRITICIZES PALESTINIANS. FIRST PASSENGER SHIP ARRIVED IN BEIRUT PORT DEC 27. NEXT SITREP JAN 3. END SUMMARY.

2. UAE TROOPS ENTER LEBANON. TWO BEIRUT NEWSPAPERS DEC 29 QUOTED NEWS AGANCIES AS SSAYING THAT 1500 UAE SOLDIERS ARRIVED BEIRUT DEC 28 EN ROUTE TYRE, BUT REPORT IS MISLEADING. UAE BATTALION OF APPROX 750, ACCORDING TO ASF STAFF, PRESENTLY LOCATED IN HILLS EAST OF BEIRUT, AND SEVERAL SOURCES REPORT NO UAE TROOPS SOUTH OF BEIRUT EARLY DEC 29. HOWEVER, ASF PLANS ARE BEING DEVELOPED FOR POSSIBLE DEPLOYEMTN OF UAE, SAUDI AND SUDANESE TROOPS TO YTRE AND NABATIYAH IN SOUTH (SEPTTEL). SHIITE LEADER IMAM MUSA SADR TOLD PRESS HE RECENTLY INFORMED BY PRESIDENT SARKIS THAT UNITS OF LEBANESE ARMY WOULD BE SENT SOUTH WITHIN ONE MONTH. (COMMENT: LAF DOES NOT HAVE CAPACITY PUT MEANINGFUL FORCE INTO SOUTH SO SOON. END COMMENT.) PRIMIN AL-HUSS EXPECTED TO DISCUSS INCREASE IN DETERRENT FORCES IN LEBANON DURING HIS CURRENT VISITS TO EGYPT AND LIBYA.

3. SITUATION IN THE SOUTH. PAPERS REPORT GREAT TENSION IN THE SOUTH AS CLASHES CONTINUED DEC 27-28, WITH SHELLING AND AUTOMATIC-WEAPONS FIRE IN MARJAYUN, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 09056 291558Z

NABATIYAH, QULAY'AH, AND TALAT LUBIA. RIGHTIST PAPERS BLAME GROWING TENSION ON RELOCATION OF PALESTINIANS WITH HEAVY WEAPONS FROM CAMPS IN NORTH AND BEIRUT AREA TO THE SOUTH. MIL SOURCE CONFIRMS PRESS REPORTS THAT APPROX 60-TRUCK CONVOY WITH TROOPS AND HEAVY WEAPONS ARRIVED NABATIYAH DEC 28. RIGHTIST AL AHRAR AND AL AMAL ACCUSE PALESTINIANS OF ATTEMPTING DRIVE CHRISTIANS FROM SOUTH ENTIRELY, AND AL AMAL CLAIMS 25,000 PALESTINIAN COMMANDOS IN ARKOUB ALONE. MIL SOURCES REPORT PALESTINIANS FORCING CHRISTIANS FROM SEVERAL VILLAGES IN ARKOUB. PIERRE GEMAYEL DEC 28 WARNED THAT PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT TO SOUTH THREATENS CHRISTIANS IN AREA AND MAY PROVOKE ISRAELI INTERVENTION. BAYRAQ DEC 28 CLAIMED THAT ISRAELIS WOULD NOT INTERVENT IN SOUTH BECAUSE OF "A GUARANTEE FROM THE PRESENT AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION." PALESTINIANS JUSTIFY THEIR MOVEMENTS SOUTHWARD ON BASIS OF 1969 CAIRO ACCORDS.

4. HEAVY WEAPONS COLLECTION. STATUS OF COLLECTION OF HEAVY ARMS STILL UNCLEAR. ALTHOUGH SOME PAPERS CLAIM PROCESS HAS ALREADY BEGUN, RIGHTIST AL BAYRAQ QUOTED "INFORMED SOURCES" AS SAYING QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE HAD DECIDED COLLECTION WOULD START JAN 2 AND END JAN 17. AL KIFAL AL ARABI REPORTS FATAH REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBER ABU MAZIN SAID PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE WILL NOT HAND OVER ITS HEAVY EQUIPMENT, BUT INSTEAD WILL MOVE IT TO THE SOUTH. ANWAR REPORTS PHALANGE AND NATIONAL MOVEMENT PREPARING TO BE COOPERATIVE WITH GOL AND ASF ON ARMS COLLECTION. DEFENSE MINISTER BOUTROS VISITING DAMASCUS DEC 29 FOR SECOND TIME THIS WEEK, WHERE HE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS ARMS QUESTION AND SOUTHERN SITUATION.

5. INCIDENT AT TARSHISH. PRESS REPORTS DYNAMITING OF 47 HOUSES IN VILLAGE OF TARSHISH IN HIGH MATN, A CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 09056 291558Z

PSP STRONGHOLD. AL KIFAH AL ARABI BLAMED PHALANGE AND NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY ELEMENTS FOR INCIDENT, ALTHOUGH PAHLANGE MEMBER JOSEPH ABU CHARAF DENIED INCIDENT EVEN OCCURRED. KAMAL JUNBLATT CALLED ON ASF TO TAKE STRONG MEASURES AGAINST PERPETRATORS. LOCAL MILITARY SOURCES CANNOT CONFIRM INCIDENT.

6. PALESTINAIN CLASHES. AL BAYRAQ REPORTED ARMED CLASHES IN BURJ AL BARAJINAH REFUGEE CAMP DEC 28 BETWEEN SAIQA AND REJECTION FRONT ELEMENTS. INTER-PALESTINIAN GROUP FORMED TO DEAL WITH SUCH FIGHTING STOPPED THE SKIRMISH. AL ANWAR DEC 29 RELAYS SANA NEWS AGENCY QUOTE FROM PALESTINAIN SOURCE ACCUSING IRAQ OF INVOLVEMENT IN LATEST FIGHTING IN LEBANESE PALESTINIAN CAMPS.

7. SAVIET-LEBANESE RELATIONS. SOVIET AMBASSADOR SOLDATOV MET WITH FONMIN BOUTROS DEC 27, AFTER WHICH BOUTROS ANNOUNCED SOVIET INTENTION TO PROVIDE LEBANON WITH A FIELD HOSPITAL. PHALANGE SOURCE REPORTED VISIT DEC 20 BY SOVIET FIRST SECRETARY AND PRAVDA DIRECTOR TO PIERRE GEMAYEL.

8. AL-HUSS TRAVELS; CABINET TO MEET ON HIS RETURN. AL-HUSS TALKED WITH EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS DEC 28, WILL PROCEED TO TRIPOLI, LIBYA DEC 29, AND IS EXPECTED TO BE IN BEIRUT FOR CABINET MEETING DEC 30. PAPERS SPECULATING FIRST DECREE TO BE ISSUED BY CABINET WILL BE ON PRESS CENSORSHIP. SIX DDAILIES AND ONE WEEKLY MAGAZINE STILL CLOSED BY ASF, BUT WE HEAR FROM STAFF

OF AN NAHAR THAT PUBLISHER GHASSAN TUEINI MET WITH
PRESIDENT SARKIS DEC 28 AND HOPES AN NAHAR WILL
REAPPEAR IN FEW DAYS.

9. JUNBLATT TRIMMING HIS SAILS. ACCORDING TO
PHALANGIST VOICE OF LEBANON ON DEC 28, SHUF DEPUTY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 BEIRUT 09056 291558Z

TEHINI TOLD PRESIDENT SARKIS THAT KAMAL JUNBLATT
INTENDS WITHDRAW AS CHAIRMAN OF CENTRAL POLITICAL
COUNCIL OF NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND LIMIT HIS POLITICAL
ACTIVITIES. MENAWHILE, LOCAL PRESS HAS
QUOTED JUNBLATT AS TAKING DISTINCTLY NEW TACT IN
RECENT INTERVIEW WITH NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR: HE REPORTEDLY
TOLD FRENCH JOURNAL THAT HE HAD SOUGHT VAINLY TO
OPPOSE EXCESSES OF THE PALESTINIANS, WHO HAD TRIED
TO EXERCISE "A SORT OF MANDATE OVER US."

10. BEIRUT PORT RECEIVED FIRST PASSENGER SHIP.
EGYPTIAN SHIP "AL JAZAER" ARRIVED IN BEIRUT'S PORT
DEC 27 AND DISCHARGED 60 PASSENGERS. SHIP THEN
PROCEEDED TO LATAKIA, SYRIA.

11. BEIRUT STAFF WISHES ALL SITREP READERS A HAPPY
NEW YEAR. OUR NEXT SITREP WILL BE PUBLISHED JAN 3.
MOLINEAUX

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, PALESTINIANS, PROGRESS REPORTS, CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT09056
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760475-0097
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976125/aaaaaduf.tel
Line Count: 199
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BEIRUT 9008
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION DECEMBER 28-29
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006